



THE NATURE OF VOLUNTEERING

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EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF NATURE - VOLUNTEER

Fall 2004

DID YOU KNOW ...

Of 261 basic ecosystem types in the U.S., 157 are represented in the wilderness system. Without these large, complex areas of preserved landscape, species protection would be virtually impossible and our understanding of how natural systems work would be reduced to childish speculation.

Wilderness areas protect watersheds that provide drinking water to many cities and rural communities.

Wilderness serves as critical habitat for wildlife threatened by extinction.

Wilderness helps filter and improve the quality of our air.

Wilderness areas maintain gene pools that help to protect biodiversity — the "web of life," and provide natural laboratories for research.

Wilderness is a haven from the pressures of our fast-paced, industrialized society, providing places where we can seek relief from the noise, haste, and crowds that too often confine us.

source: The Wilderness Society



AMERICA'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Wild Things

where wildlife comes naturally!

...

WILDERNESS: 40th ANNIVERSARY

On October 23rd, National Wildlife Refuge Day, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and the 30th anniversary of the designation of its very own Brigantine Wilderness area. Although New Jersey is the most densely populated state, it displays a large range of natural beauty. Of the state's 4,748,000 acres, 10,341 of them have been designated as wilderness areas: The Brigantine Wilderness and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness.

Wilderness is the land that was - wild land beyond the frontier...land that shaped the growth of our nation and the character of its people. Wilderness is the land that is - rare, wild places where one can retreat from civilization, reconnect with the Earth, and find healing, meaning and significance.

Today, people still perceive Wilderness in many ways. While some people think that Wilderness is a forested backyard or a park down the street, Congress defined Wilderness as much more than that and designated specific areas across the United States to be protected as Wilderness.

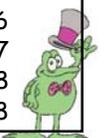
A common misconception is that Wilderness is found only in big western states or in Alaska. In fact, all but six states have federal designated Wilderness: Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Rhode Island. Currently, the National Wilderness Preservation System contains 105,695,176 acres. However, only 4.67% of the entire United States—an area slightly larger than the state of California—is protected as Wilderness.

Another common misconception is that Wilderness is only found in remote places like high-elevation mountains with snow and ice or vast sandy deserts. In reality, the National Wilderness Preservation System preserves a wide variety of ecosystems throughout the country including swamps in the Southeast, tundra in Alaska, snowcapped peaks in the Rocky Mountains, hardwoods forests in the Northeast, and deserts in the Southwest.

Indispensable to the American past, the legacy that is Wilderness will remain indispensable to the American future. Wilderness is every American's story. (from Wilderness.net)

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Terrestrial Invasive Non-native Plant Control on the Refuge

by Jorge Coppen

Recently, the refuge submitted a proposal for Federal Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI) Funds (\$30,000) to battle invasive non-native plants refuge-wide. CCI Funds must be matched at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio, through money or in-kind goods and/or services. Successful proposals will be awarded funds by December 15, 2004.

Project partners hope to form a coalition to control terrestrial invasive non-native plants on the Forsythe NWR and adjacent lands. The coalition will develop a focused, prioritized plan of attack to combat the most invasive plant species during the 2005 growing season. Significant infestations potentially affecting conservation lands in the area via seed source will receive top priority regardless of the land ownership. The team would use a variety of control techniques including mechanical and chemical control techniques.

Short-term goals are: To develop a long-term broad-based partnership program to control invasive non-native species in natural landscapes of coastal New Jersey; To control terrestrial invasive non-native plant in the vicinity of the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR regardless of land ownership; To prevent future infestations by attacking significant seed sources of priority invasive, non-native plants from lands within and beyond the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR.

Long-term goals are: To stimulate the development of an invasive species control strike team in south New Jersey to combat invasive non-native species. To stimulate discussion of a state-wide exotic pest plant council to address landscape-level invasive non-native species control throughout New Jersey.

Benefits of a coordinated effort to control terrestrial invasive non-native plants on lands of multiple ownership include a mechanism to address significant seed sources and infestations that threaten native habitats. This effort will help protect the integrity of all land management units (federal, state, county and non-governmental groups). Seed sources pose the greatest threat to new infestations within native landscapes, necessitating a coordinated effort. Such an approach lends itself to very effective landscape-level planning efforts that produce prioritization of and efficient use of resources to combat the primary threat to natural resources within national wildlife refuges in the nation.

The state of New Jersey does not have an exotic pest plant council or an official invasive plant list. This project could serve as a catalyst to stimulate development of invasive species strike teams throughout New Jersey to combating invasive species at the state level. It could also stimulate development of a state-wide exotic pest plant council to address landscape-level control of invasive non-native species throughout New Jersey.

Primary vegetation to be controlled are invasive grassy, woody and broadleaf species from the list below and are mostly found along refuge roadways and disturbed areas of the refuge uplands.

Tree of Heaven (*Atlanthus altissima*)
 Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
 Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
 Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
 Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)
 Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)
 Golden Bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*)
 Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
 Silk Tree (*Mimosa*) (*Albizia julibrissin*)
 Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*)
 Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
 Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

For an overview of the invasive non-native species of concern in New Jersey see the following publication:

Snyder, David and Sylvan R. Kaufman. 2004. An overview of nonindigenous plant species in New Jersey. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, Office of Natural Lands Management, Natural Heritage Program, Trenton, NJ. 107 pages.

This report can be downloaded at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/InvasiveReport.pdf>

Also see <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/njcrp/invasive-plants.pdf>



CHIEF'S CORNER

Refuge System Chief Bill Hartwig

A theologian once said, "A community is too heavy for anyone to carry alone." That's what is great about the National Wildlife Refuge System: the load is shared among more than 3,000 outstanding and dedicated professionals.

If I needed proof, I got it when I last opened the Special Events Calendar on our Web site and saw more than 120 events listed for National Wildlife Refuge Week. Whenever I check the calendar, I see another dozen events have been added.

National Wildlife Refuge Week is our time to shine right where it counts - in local communities. Our work for conservation of habitat and wildlife can best be accomplished with the avid support of people who have been welcomed onto refuges and then tell their friends and neighbors about their experiences.

Coincidentally, National Wildlife Refuge Week will be among the eight weeks when we conduct the Visitor Satisfaction Survey on about 50 refuges. The survey's results have always been enviable, with the overwhelming majority of people giving us the highest possible ratings. I expect to see much the same result from this survey.

CARE (the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement), a partnership of 21 organizations that support the Refuge System, will carry that message to Capitol Hill, where legislators are anxious to know that every appropriated dollar is having a real impact in the communities where their constituents live.

National wildlife refuges do, indeed, make a difference, both in the community and for the wildlife we work to protect and restore. National Wildlife Refuge Week will broadcast that message clearly for the benefit of the American people. I look forward to attending many of those 120-plus Refuge Week events.

"Extra Credit" for our Volunteers

We have recently learned that Department of the Interior (DOI) volunteers are now eligible for membership in the Interior Federal Credit Union (IFCU). This is a valuable benefit for those volunteers who may wish to take advantage of the opportunity.

As a special feature of this campaign, IFCU is offering to cover the minimum \$25.00 deposit requirement for new accounts by crediting each new account with \$25.00 (offer currently available through October 31, 2004). Although DOI volunteers are widely located, one of the benefits of having an IFCU account is the convenience of over 1,400 branches to transact credit union business; and, nearly 20,000 ATM locations across the country that can be used without a surcharge. See message below for additional information on membership benefits.

What are the benefits of joining a Credit Union?

- Earn competitive rates on savings products, the more you deposit, the higher your rate of return
- Highly competitive loan rates
- Free Checking
- Free 24 hour online and telephone account access
- Reduced fee and Free ATMs across the country
- Many other services available such as:
 - Travelers Checks
 - Money orders
 - Duck Stamps
 - Mortgage products
 - Online Bill Payment

Volunteer Requirements for Membership

Volunteers will need a copy of their volunteer service agreement as proof of their volunteer status. Membership is not dependent on the number of hours served. Volunteers can sign up today at: https://www.doifcuhb.org/site/join_how.html, or call the IFCU at 800-914-8619 to request an application or additional information. Call Sandy at 609-748-1535 for a copy of your volunteer service agreement.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

New training sessions will be held for volunteers interested in working with school groups and leading tours. Call Sandy at 609-748-1535

Thanks for Supporting Our National Heritage

Visitor Services Manager, Cindy Heffley



Everyone who visits the Brigantine Division of the refuge is required to pay a fee whether they buy the daily pass or one of the other passes. This includes those who are taking a ride on the Wildlife Drive, walking on one of the trails, as well as anyone using any of the other facilities near the Visitor Information area. Staff and volunteers who aren't on official duty are responsible to have a pass. A summons will be issued to anyone who doesn't comply with the requirement. In addition to entrance fees, we also issue special use permits for waterfowl hunt guides, wilderness access, and for-profit guides on the Wildlife Drive. The money spent for Federal Recreation Fees helps support the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in many ways. We use the money to develop, maintain and improve visitor services and recreation opportunities throughout the refuge.

Many of you know the daily entrance pass is \$4.00 per car or \$2.00 per bicycle or pedestrian, but did you know that there are six passes available depending on your particular situation and need? Many of you who are 62 years old and over are eligible to purchase the Golden Age Passport for a one-time fee of \$10.00. If you, or someone you know, are legally blind or permanently disabled, the Golden Access is available for no charge. Since both of these passes require proof of age or disability, you must obtain them in person. Both of these passes are good for the lifetime of the pass owner. In addition to covering the entrance fee at national parks, national wildlife refuges, forest service and bureau of land management sites, it also give the owner a 50% discount on federal recreation use fees for most facilities and services. For those of us under 62 years of age, the Golden Eagle Passport is available for \$65.00 and is good for one year from date of purchase. All of these passes will admit the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private area. In those areas where a "per person" fee is charged, the pass

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Volunteer Dinner

Friday the 13th turned out to be a scary (???) evening for those attending our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner -- someone had stolen the Volunteer of the Year award !! and it was up to everyone there to put together the clues and solve the crime.

Even with staff leading the investigation, and an award being offered, no one guessed who did it, so Tom Holdsworth finally admitted to doing such a horrid thing -- "BUT," he said, "it was only because I am tired of Steve always getting all the glory of presenting the Volunteer of the Year award each year, and I wanted to be the one to award it this year." Then, without giving anyone the chance to object, Tom presented the award to Al Reichenbach because, "He's a lunatic - just plain crazy, what that man does around here!" Terry Mitchell put it a little more eloquently when he stated that, "If he was not here doing what he does, Tom and I would have even less time to keep the water line beneath the nostrils of the refuge." Jorge Coppen added "Al, the "lean, mean mowing machine.." But Cindy Heffley summed it up best with, "He is always taking care of the appearance of the refuge and doesn't look for anything from us. He's a low-maintenance volunteer in a high-maintenance position. Without his constant maintenance of the grounds around here, the place would look horrible. I'm especially thankful for his careful mowing around the Purple Martin houses. It always seems like as soon as I think the grass is getting a bit too high, he's out there the next day mowing it."

It was a fun evening and one that Refuge staff looks forward to each year to thank all of you for the the work you do. You are, without a doubt, the heart of this Refuge!



Tom Holdsworth with Volunteer of the Year Al Reichenbach

After "flunking" their "refuge biology test," Rich Koterba and Doug Kellner still get to don a cap and gown and march down the aisle.



Door Prizes -- everyone went home with one!



Photos by Ed Jones



Volunteer of the Year Al Reichenbach



Each year Refuge staff have the opportunity to select a volunteer who they feel has contributed significantly to the operations of Forsythe NWR. This year's award went to *Al Reichenbach*.

Al has been a refuge volunteer since January 2001, and has contributed nearly 2000 hours helping with such chores as landscaping, cutting new trails and maintaining existing ones, mowing, triimming, weeding, watering, picking up trash, repairing signs, just to name a few.

Al and his wife, Eileen, live in Hammonton. This summer, Al even brought grandson Zach to help him. When not volunteering at Forsythe, Al also volunteers his time maintaining the grounds of a local church.

When staff was asked for nominations, Al received comments such as:

- Very dependable, hard working, easy to supervise, and has a good attitude.
- He is always taking care of the appearance of the refuge and doesn't look for anything from us.
- He's a low-maintenance volunteer in a high-maintenance position.
- Without his constant maintenance of the grounds around here, the place would look horrible.
- He's a lunatic - just plain crazy what he does around here!
- The "lean, mean mowing machine.."

From all of us at the Refuge, thanks, Al !!

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admits the pass owner, spouse and children. For those of you who aren't interested in any of the Golden Passes, there are also area-specific passes at some parks, refuges, and recreation sites. Here at Forsythe, a yearly pass is \$12.00. It is valid for one year from the date of purchase and will admit the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. As you can see, if you visit the refuge more than three times each year, you end up spending much less if you buy an annual pass compared to paying for a daily pass. Finally, there is the Federal Duck Stamp which costs \$15.00. Unlike the Golden Eagle Passport or Refuge Specific Pass which are valid for one year from the purchase date, the Federal Duck Stamp is valid from July 1st through June 30th of the following year of purchase. It is only valid as an entrance pass in National Wildlife Refuges.

The next time you get ready to take a trip around the Wildlife Drive be sure you have your pass in your car. The amount paid for the pass is small compared to the wonderful experiences and long-lasting memories you will take away with you.



photos by Seth Putney



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - Bring a Friend

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|---|-----|----------------------------------|-----|
| Wildflower Garden | ___ | Environmental Education | ___ | Count Entrance Fees | ___ |
| Visitor Center Talks | ___ | Trail Maintenance | ___ | Special Events | ___ |
| Photo Club | ___ | Friends of Forsythe | ___ | Clean Up Litter | ___ |
| Puppeteers | ___ | Help with census of plant or animal populations | ___ | Lead bus tours on Wildlife Drive | ___ |

If you're interested in volunteering for any of these projects, have other ideas, or would like to contribute goods or services to help with these projects, please let us know by completing this form and sending it to us:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
Box 72, Great Creek Road
Oceanville, NJ 08231
609-748-1535

**Friends of Forsythe Sponsor Ironman
Eric Schrading**

"Birds of a Feather, Flock Together," so the saying goes - and that certainly is the case here! The Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge's Friends Group has announced that it is proudly sponsoring Fish and Wildlife Service employee Eric Schrading, in his bid for Ironman. Schrading, a senior fish and wildlife biologist at the New Jersey Ecological Services Field Office in Pleasantville, New Jersey, has qualified to compete in the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on Oct. 16. The ironman triathlon is one of the most grueling of athletic pursuits. It requires the competitor to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles in a 17-hour period. Training typically requires 18 to 24 hours per week for six to eight months to develop the required endurance for the event.

"This is a dream come true for me," Schrading says. "A few years ago, I was watching the event on television and thought, 'That's nuts! Who would compete in that?' And now I'm going to compete in it myself."

Eric qualified for the world championship by finishing third in his age group (28th overall) at the Eagleman Half Ironman Triathlon at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. He qualified against 50,000 other athletes from 50 countries vying to compete in the Hawaii race. Eric also finished 48th out of 2,000 and ninth in his age group at the Lake Placid, N.Y., Ironman USA Triathlon in July. He has competed in the Great Floridian and Duke Blue Devil triathlons as well as running in two other half Ironman triathlons this year.

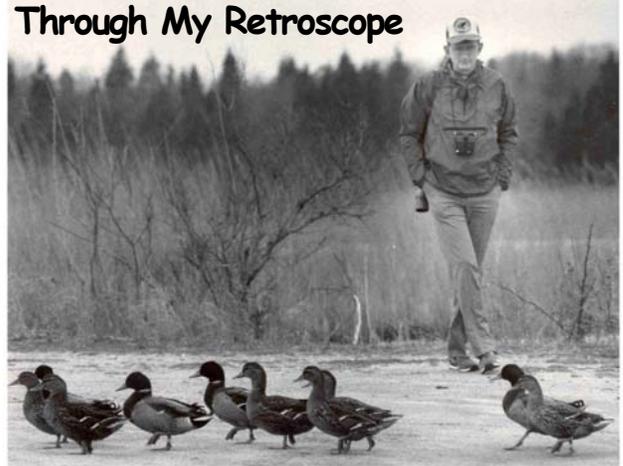
Schrading, 38, previously competed in the world championship in 2002. He finished that race in 67th place for his age class with a time of 10:25:13.

Anyone wishing to send donations can mail them to the Friends of Forsythe NWR, c/o PO Box 355, Oceanville, NJ. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of Forsythe with a memo "Eric Schrading." For more information call the Friends of Forsythe NWR at 609-748-1535.

Friends Nature Store Reopens

It's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming holidays. Don't forget the our Friends have a great selection of items in their shop - from t-shirts to books; gift ideas for adults and children -- so instead of the hassle of finding a parking space and fighting the crowds of shoppers at your local mall, take a short drive to our Friends Nature Store located at Forsythe Refuge. You'll find some unique gifts, and when you finish your shopping, take the Wildlife Drive to enjoy the peace and quiet of the Refuge and contemplate your blessings!

Through My Retroscope



30 years ago, a young Ed Bristow saw a need and made a difference

For the past 30 years, Atlantic Audubon has been actively involved in many local environmental issues, mostly out of sight of the general public. Perhaps because they don't scream at public meetings or march on city halls or throw rotten tomatoes, there has been little coverage in the media.

Let us count the ways:

1. The first chapter of National Audubon to "Adopt-a-Refuge" and become an "Audubon Refuge Keeper."
 2. A member of the Smithville Coalition, fighting unbridled development of the lands adjacent to the "Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge." Recognized with an award from the New Jersey Audubon Society for that effort.
 3. Convincing Atlantic County to clean up illegal dumps along county roads, leading to the country clean roads program.
 4. Convincing the NJ Dept. of Transportation to begin a "clean highway" program, leading to the state Adopt-A-Road program, and being the first organization to sign up. We now do 3 road cleanups.
 5. Multiple awards from the National Audubon Society for both the chapter and individuals. Individuals awards from other organizations.
 6. Helping to convince Atlantic County to institute an "open space" acquisition program.
 7. When the Non-game & Endangered Species division of the NJ Dept. of Fish & Game received no funding, Atlantic Audubon stepped up to be the seller of special T-shirts to raise some money to keep the division functioning.
- Over the years, we have fielded calls for assistance from both members and non-members. Many times we can't help because there aren't enough volunteers who can find the time to respond effectively. More of the public has to speak out effectively, and we can help. However, folks must depend more on themselves and their friends and neighbors to effect change. Maybe in the next 30 years, more will discover that individuals make the difference, especially when they come together under a single umbrella.



Cape May Field Trip

friendly lookin' critters -
they must be
Forsythe volunteers!

This year's "For Volunteers Only" field trip was a full day in Cape May County.

The first stop was at the Wetlands Institute with a video of our favorite "Secrets of the Saltmarsh" video and tour of the facility.



Next, it was on to Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, where Refuge Manager Howard Schlegel treated

us to some down south (Jersey that is) hospitality.

Final stop was the Cape May Zoo for lunch and time on our own to enjoy the beautiful weather.

Hope you can join us next year!



National Wildlife Refuge Day and Make a Difference Day

On October 23rd, Forsythe Refuge celebrated its annual Fall festival. Nearly 600 visitors flocked to the refuge to enjoy a variety of walks, trolley, canoe and van tours and many exhibits for children and adults focusing on the importance of wilderness in the preservation of our natural resources.



About 100 Cub Scouts, Brownies, their siblings and parents participated in the Make a Difference Day activity in our native plant garden.



The Hares and the Frogs

one of Aesop's Fables

The Hares were so persecuted by the other beasts, they did not know where to go. As soon as they saw a single animal approach them, off they used to run. One day they saw a troop of wild Horses stampeding about, and in quite a panic all the Hares scuttled off to a lake nearby, determined to drown themselves rather than live in such a continual state of fear. But just as they got near the bank of the lake, a troop of Frogs, frightened in their turn by the approach of the Hares scuttled off, and jumped into the water. "Truly," said one of the Hares, "things are not so bad as they seem."

Moral:

There is always someone worse off than yourself.

WHO'S ON STAFF?

Project Leader
STEVE ATZERT

Deputy Project Leader
DEBORAH LONG

Acting Refuge Manager
Barnegat Division
Vinny Turner

Chief of Visitor Services
ART WEBSTER

Biologists
JORGE COPPEN, VINNY TURNER

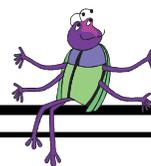
Refuge Law Enforcement Officers
BRIAN WILLARD, CHRIS PANCILA

Administrative
Officer
MARTHA HAND

Visitor Services
Manager
CINDY HEFFLEY

Volunteer Coordinator
SANDY PERCHETTI

Maintenance Professionals
TOM HOLDSWORTH
TERRY MITCHELL



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